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Ann Landers
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Chicago, Illinois 60611

August 31, 1977

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Josh:

It seems I am never writing to GIVE you anything--it's always to get something, and I'm getting ashamed of myself. But not so ashamed that I'm not knocking at your door again.

This request is a little more complicated and I do hope you will accommodate me.

I have taken on the preposterous (and back-breaking) job of writing a book for Doubleday. It's going to be an Encyclopedia of Answers to Problems. I'll go from A -- Abortion, Acne, Adoption, Adultery -- through Zoonosis. Sounds formidable, doesn't it? Well, it is, but I am determined.

I am asking some of my friends around the country who are specialists to give me a hand with various subjects.

What I need from you is a few paragraphs on, "should cousins marry." About 500 words should do it.

All pieces will be signed. Please let me know how you would like your credit to read.

I must say, I've had some marvelous pieces already from the most distinguished authorities in medicine, law, religion, etc.--Karl Menninger, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Howard Rusk, Ralph Greenson, Mike DeBakey, George Cahill, Fred Plum, John Merrill, Ted Hesburgh, Cardinal Cody, fellow Trustees at Meharry, Menningers, Mayo's, etc.

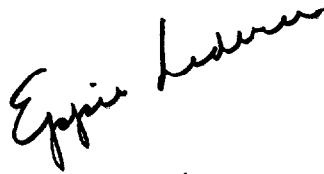
Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. Please say, "Yes, I'll do it."

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Page 2
August 31, 1977

It needn't be polished prose--just the facts
in body English that the guy on the street can under-
stand.

There is no hard and fast deadline, but
October 15th would be peachy.

My warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eppie Lederer". The signature is written in dark ink and is slanted upwards to the right.

(Ann Landers)

EPL/cd